Disbanding of Special Operations Group

2855. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per army authorities the proposed decision of new Jammu and Kashmir Government to disband the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the police will weaken counter-insurgency operations;

(b) whether Central Government was consulted before implementation of above decision; and

(c) if so, what was the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As per the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir's address to the joint session of Jammu & Kashmir Legislature, the Jammu & Kashmir Government is committed to assimilating/relocating the personnel of Special Operations Group in the regular police force so that they are subjected to discipline and are made accountable for their deeds. The Governor's address has also indicated that the State Government is fully alive to the legitimate security concerns of the State and intends to stand firm and steadfast in discharging its obligations under the Constitution. So far no action has been taken by State Government with regard to its proposed relocation of the Special Operations Group.

The army has indicated to Government that the counter terrorism operations being conducted by the army in Jammu & Kashmir are unlikely to be affected by this decision and would continue as hithertofore.

Release of Defence Land to AP Government for the construction of a Hospital

2856. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has agreed in the past for release of 10 acres of Defence Land under G.L.R. Survey No.667, situated just opposite Hanuman Temple, Trimulgherry in favour of A.P. Government for the construction of Hospital;